

In April 2009, the Georgia Legislature passed **HB 475** that amended the Georgia Nurse Practice Act and revised requirements for RN licensure. The Governor signed the legislation into law on April 29, 2009. The following charts are intended to provide information on how to interpret these changes. Please note, however, that although signed into law, the Georgia Board of Nursing (GBON) must develop policies and procedures to implement the new requirements.

LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

Nontraditional Nursing Education Program Applicants for Licensure Applicants enrolled prior to July 1, 2008, who complete a nontraditional RN program no later than June 30, 2011

<p>If you were: a licensed LPN upon enrollment AND have <u>at least one year</u> * of clinical experience * in a health care facility * as a licensed practical nurse</p>	<p>If you were: not a licensed LPN upon enrollment OR you were an LPN who does not have <u>at least one year</u> * of clinical experience * in a health care facility * as a licensed practical nurse</p>
<p>You will be eligible to apply for licensure by examination in Georgia <u>provided you meet all other licensing requirements.</u></p> <p>* As defined by the GBON</p>	<p>You will be eligible to apply for licensure by examination in Georgia HOWEVER GBON may require, at its discretion, <u>additional hours of clinical experience</u> * before granting licensure, if the GBON determines that the applicant lacks clinical experience *. The additional clinical hours shall be obtained by a <u>postgraduate preceptorship</u> * that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the applicant arranges; • complies with the policies/guidelines of the GBON; • has prior approval of the GBON; and • Upon approval of the preceptorship, the GBON issues to the applicant a 6 month <u>temporary permit</u> to practice as an RN only as part of the preceptorship. The permit may be extended once for one 6 month period. <p><u>After completion of the postgraduate preceptorship</u>, you may receive a license to practice as an RN, <u>provided you meet all other licensing requirements.</u></p> <p>* As defined by the GBON</p>

LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

Nontraditional Nursing Education Program Applicants for Licensure Applicants who enroll in a nontraditional RN program after July 1, 2008

If you were a licensed LPN upon enrollment
AND
had at least three years*
of clinical experience*
in a health care facility* as a licensed LPN
AND

- your academic education as a LPN did include clinical training in
 - pediatrics,
 - obstetrics and gynecology,
 - medical-surgical, and
 - mental illness

then you:

- Must complete a 350 hour post graduate preceptorship* that
- the applicant arranges
- complies with GBON guidelines
- has prior approval of the GBON
- is under the **oversight of a RN** who meets the GBON requirements*
- includes transition from the role of LPN into RN
- **successful completion*** is verified in writing by the preceptor
- Upon approval of preceptorship, the GBON issues to the applicant a 6-month temporary permit to practice as a RN only as part of the preceptorship. The permit may be extended **once** for one 6 month period

Upon completion of the preceptorship, you may receive a license to practice as an RN in Georgia provided **you meet all other licensing requirements** (i.e., background check, etc.)

* As defined by the GBON

If you were a licensed LPN upon enrollment
AND
• had less than three years*
• of clinical experience*
• in a health care facility* as a licensed LPN
AND

- your academic education as a LPN
did not include clinical training in
- pediatrics,
 - obstetrics and gynecology,
 - medical-surgical, and
 - mental illness

then you:

- Must complete a 700 hour postgraduate preceptorship* that
- the applicant arranges
- complies with GBON guidelines
- has prior approval of the GBON
- is under the **oversight of a RN** who meets GBON requirements*
- includes clinical practice* in a health care facility* that includes the following:
 - pediatrics
 - obstetrics and gynecology
 - medical-surgical
 - mental illness, and
 - transition into the role of a registered professional nurse
- **successful completion** is verified in writing by the preceptor
- Upon approval of the preceptorship, the GBON issues to the applicant a 6 month temporary permit to practice as a RN only as part of the preceptorship. The permit may be extended **once** for one 6 month period.

Upon completion of the preceptorship, you may receive a license to practice as an RN in Georgia **provided you meet all other licensing requirements** (i.e., background check, etc.)

*As defined by the GBON

If, upon enrollment, you were either a

- **military medical corpsman,**
OR
- **paramedic**

then you:

- Must complete a 700 hour postgraduate preceptorship* that:
- the applicant arranges
- complies with GBON guidelines
- has prior approval of the GBON
- is under the **oversight of a RN** who meets the GBON requirements*
- provides clinical practice* in a healthcare facility* that includes the following:
 - pediatrics
 - obstetrics and gynecology
 - medical-surgical
 - mental illness and
 - **transition** into the role of a registered professional nurse
- **successful completion** is verified in writing by the preceptor
- Upon approval of the preceptorship, the GBON issues to the applicant a 6 month temporary permit to practice as a RN only as part of the preceptorship. The permit may be extended **once** for one 6 month period.

Upon completion of the preceptorship, you may receive a license to practice as an RN in Georgia **provided you meet all other licensing requirements** (i.e., background check, etc.)

* As defined by the GBON

LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT
Nontraditional Nursing Education Program Applicants for Licensure

If you have graduated from a nontraditional RN program
AND

- you have practiced as a **licensed RN** in another state
 1. in a **health care facility***
 2. for **at least 1 year*** in the 3 years preceding the date of application

AND

3. your RN practice is **documented** and approved by the GBON

If you have graduated from a nontraditional RN program
AND

- you were a **licensed LPN** upon enrollment in the nontraditional RN program,

AND

- you have **practiced** as a **licensed RN** in another state
 1. in a **health care facility***
 2. for **less than 1 year*** in the 3 years preceding the date of application

If you have graduated from a nontraditional RN program
AND

- you were either a **military medical corpsman** **OR** a **paramedic** upon enrollment in the nontraditional RN program

AND

- you have practiced as a **licensed RN** in another state
 1. in a **health care facility***
 2. for **less than one year** * in the 3 years preceding the date of application

You may receive a license to practice as an RN in Georgia, **provided you meet all other licensing requirements** (i.e., background check, etc.)

You must complete, prior to licensure, a 350 hour **preceptorship*** that is:

- arranged by the applicant
- complies with GBON guidelines
- has prior GBON approval
- is under the **oversight of a RN** who meets GBON requirements*
- includes **transition** from role of LPN to RN
- **successful completion** is verified in writing by preceptor
- **Upon approval of the preceptorship**, the GBON issues to the applicant a 6 month **temporary permit** to practice as a RN only as part of the preceptorship. The permit may be extended **once** for one 6 month period.

Upon preceptorship completion, you may receive a license to practice as an RN in Georgia **provided that you meet all other licensing requirements** (i.e., background check, etc.)

* As defined by the GBON

You must complete, prior to licensure, a 700 hour **preceptorship*** that is:

- arranged by the applicant
- complies with GBON guidelines
- has prior GBON approval
- is under the **oversight of a RN** who meets GBON requirements*
- provides **clinical practice*** in a **healthcare facility*** that includes the following:
 1. pediatrics
 2. obstetrics and gynecology
 3. medical-surgical
 4. mental illness
 5. transition into the role of a RN
- **successful completion** is verified in writing by the preceptor
- **Upon approval of the preceptorship**, the GBON issues to the applicant a 6 month **temporary permit** to practice as a RN

only as part of the preceptorship. The permit may be extended **once** for one 6 month period.

Upon preceptorship completion, you may receive a license to practice as a RN in Georgia **provided that you meet all other licensing requirements** (i.e. criminal background check, etc.)

* As defined by the GBON

* As defined by the GBON

*HB 475, which amended the Georgia Nurse Practice Act found in O.C.G.A. §§ 43-26-1 et seq., became effective on April 29, 2009. The Georgia Board of Nursing ("GBON") has adopted the following definitions for the terms listed below that are used in the new law:

"Clinical experience" or **"clinical practice"** are terms that have the same meaning and may be used interchangeably to mean the "hands on" clinical practice of nursing.

"Health care facility" means an acute care "inpatient" hospital.

"One year" means a minimum of 1800 hours. For example, one year of clinical experience or clinical practice means a minimum of 1800 hours of clinical experience or clinical practice.

"Preceptorship" means a program of clinical experience or practice that is approved by the GBON in which an applicant for RN licensure gains a stated number of hours of clinical experience or practice in a health care facility located in Georgia. The applicant must be under the supervision of a preceptor who is a GA licensed RN who is: 1. located in Georgia; 2. has a minimum of 18 months of experience in an acute care practice setting; and 3. has no history of disciplinary action with a licensing board. Prior to GBON approval of the preceptorship, a written letter of agreement between the applicant and RN preceptor must be filed with the GBON that: 1. is written on letterhead stationary of the Georgia health care facility; 2. clearly states the location of the preceptorship; and 3. is signed by the RN applicant, preceptor, and a health care facility representative. Successful completion of the preceptorship must be verified in writing from the preceptor prior to licensing.